

## COMMENDING JIMMY FRANKLIN

(Mr. ISAKSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to rise and pay tribute to a great Georgian, Mr. Jimmy Franklin of Statesboro, Georgia.

This week in Orlando, Florida, Mr. Franklin will receive from the Georgia Bar Association the Distinguished Service Scrolls Award recognizing his outstanding achievement in his profession.

Mr. Franklin is a respected member of the bar, a leader in his city and county and his church. This award recognizes his long contribution to Georgia. Also, I am proud to acknowledge his long and trusted advice to me, to other Members of Congress, and to Governors of Georgia. His knowledge of policy and his love of this country is unsurpassed.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and a pleasure for me today to pay tribute to a great Georgian, Jimmy Franklin, and a warm and trusted friend of whom I have the greatest respect.

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UPDATING VICE PRESIDENT ON  
EVENTS IN REAL WORLD

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Florida, the Vice President reassured that there were connections between Saddam Hussein, he said, long established ties between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda. This has been proven wrong, and woefully wrong, many times. But as recently as this morning, the 9/11 Commission issued a breaking story saying it is now clear there is no connection between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda as it relates to 9/11.

I do not know how the Vice President of the United States of America can be so sorrowfully misinformed or has decided to misinform the public. Neither quality is worthy of the Vice President of the United States of America.

Now, I do not know what it is going to take to help the Vice President shake him of this delusion. I know in this town in Washington some people are firm in their opinions and flexible on their principles, but it is now time for us to acknowledge there is no connection between al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein. The war in Iraq was a war of choice.

CONTINUE TO SAY NO TO EMBRY-  
ONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as the debate begins over the proper way to pay

tribute the 40th President of the United States, some argue that the best way to honor the memory of Ronald Reagan would be to permit the destruction of human embryos for scientific research on diseases like that which claimed his life, and while I would never criticize grieving family members who advocate this, anyone else who would use the memory of Ronald Reagan to erode the sanctity of human life would do more to desecrate his legacy than by any other means.

Reaffirming his pro-life views on the 10th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, President Reagan said, "There is no cause more important for preserving freedom than affirming the transcendent right to life to all human beings." He said, "We cannot diminish the value of one category of human life, the unborn, without diminishing the value of all human life." Let us choose life. Let us honor Reagan. Let us honor his pro-life values by continuing to say no to embryonic stem cell research.

GOVERNMENT KEEPING AMERI-  
CANS ADDICTED TO HIGH-PRICED  
OIL

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, reasonably priced gasoline has become a distant memory for most Americans, yet gasoline can still be had for 5 cents a gallon. Where? Well, in Baghdad. How? Because the American taxpayers are subsidizing gasoline for the Iraqis at the cost of \$167 million a month. Even at that we are being ripped off by Halliburton, we are told. We are paying too much for it.

So while Americans are curtailing their summer vacations because they cannot afford to fill their tanks, they are backing up the trucks in Baghdad and filling up 20 to 30 gallon tanks for \$1 to \$1.50. That is a lot less than the price of a gallon here.

Yet the Republicans would tell us that their lame energy bill would do something about this. Well, we passed their lame energy bill two or three times before on the floor of the House. We are voting on all the same provisions again. The \$18 billion subsidy to the oil and gas industry, yes, that will really help. That is going to help Americans get more affordable gasoline and help make this country more energy independent and efficient.

They actually do not want us to be more energy independent and efficient. They want us to be addicted to the high price oil, to continue to shovel money into these multinational oil companies.

FLYING FIRST CLASS AT THE  
PENTAGON

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, almost every Member of this body is pro-military. But we also should be pro-taxpayer too. So all of us should be shocked that the Defense Department lost \$100 million on unused airplane tickets over the 6 years between 1997 and 2003. In addition, the Pentagon bought 68,000 first class or business class tickets over this same period.

Members of Congress fly coach class unless they use frequent flier miles to upgrade. Public officials, including those in the military, are supposed to be public servants, not rulers or some elite, special, privileged class.

The Defense Department gets almost everything it asks for, so it just does not seem to care about wasteful spending. But if any high-level officials at the Pentagon have even the slightest concern for the taxpayer, they should immediately eliminate this unused ticket business so we do not lose \$100 million or more over the next 6 years.

Also, all members of the military should fly coach, like almost all Members of Congress and almost all our constituents do, instead of buying 11,000 or more first class tickets each year.

COMPENSATING IRAQI PRISONERS  
AT THE EXPENSE OF AMERICAN  
POWS

(Mr. STRICKLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, according to The Hill newspaper, former American prisoners tortured by Saddam Hussein's regime in the first Gulf War are criticizing the Bush administration for fighting their compensation claims while planning to compensate the Iraqi victims of abuse at the Abu Ghraib prison.

Rumsfeld told the Senate Committee on Armed Services last week that he is seeking a way to provide appropriate compensation to those detainees who suffered such grievous and brutal abuse at the hands of American Armed Forces. And yet this administration, this President, went to court to keep American POWs, those who were tortured by Saddam Hussein, from getting the compensation that was given to them by a lower court.

Why would this administration, why would this President, why would this Secretary of Defense, want to compensate Iraqi prisoners who had been tortured, and fight the compensation of American prisoners who had been tortured? Whose side is this administration on?

## A SAFER, STRONGER AMERICA

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, after 4 years of leadership by President Bush,